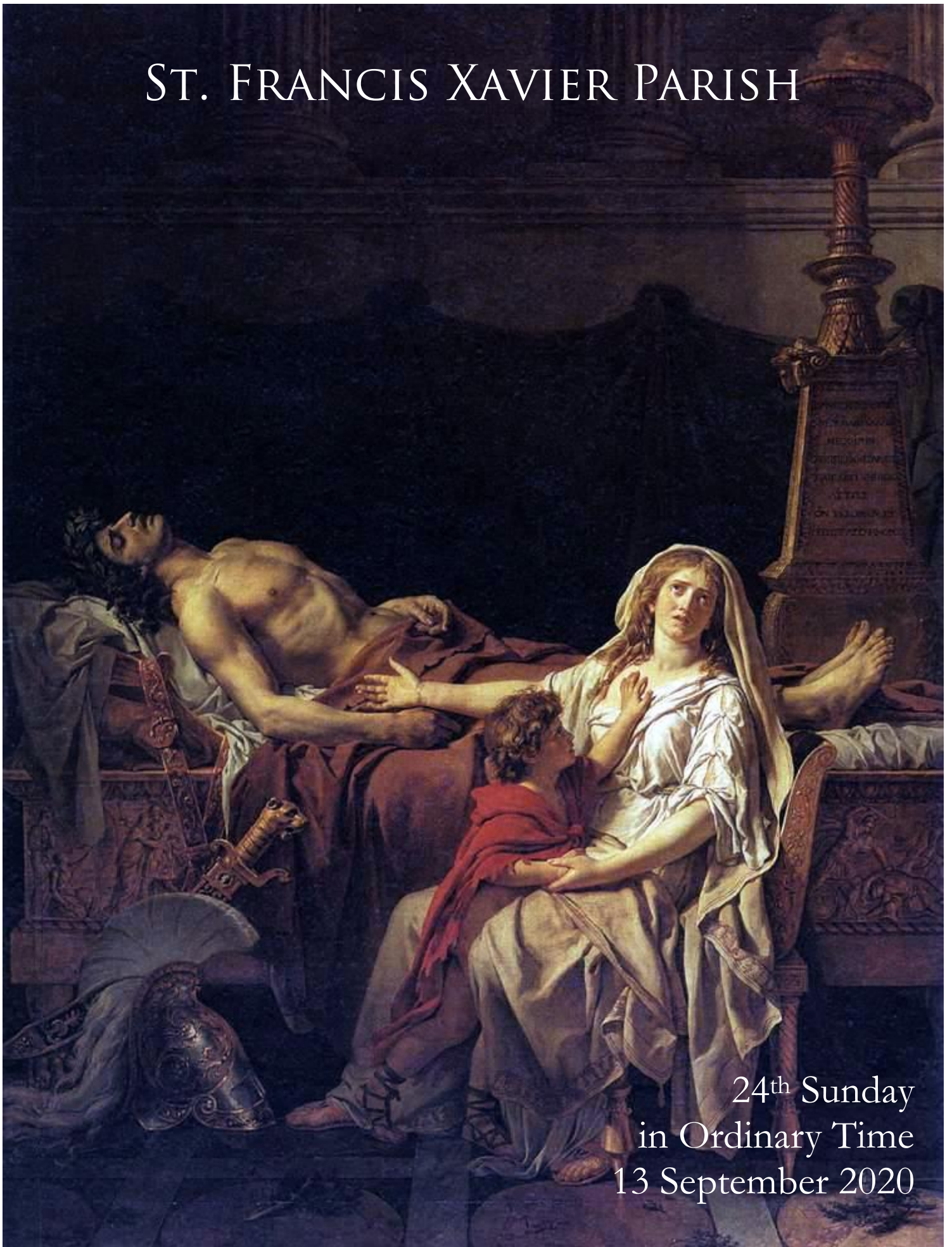


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



24th Sunday
in Ordinary Time
13 September 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(September 12th - September 20th)

Sat.	Sept. 12	24th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00 pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Sept. 13	24th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)
	7:00am	Jean, Helen & Donny Guenette
	9:00am	For Peace in Our Country
	11:00am	<i>Month's Mind</i>
Mon.	Sept. 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Rd)
	9:00am	Mildred Sorenson
Tues.	Sept 15	Our Lady of Sorrows (Wh)
	9:00am	Elaine Correia
Wed.	Sept 16	Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian (Rd)
	9:00am	Maria Mendes & Family
Thurs.	Sept 17	St. Robert Bellarmine; Bishop (Wh)
	9:00am	Manuel Pereira
Fri.	Sept 18	Feria (Gr)
	9:00am	Souls in Purgatory
Sat.	Sept. 19	St. Januarius; Bishop (Rd)
	9:00am	Marc Bouchard
Sat.	Sept. 19	25th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)
	4:00 pm	Al Hebert
Sun.	Sept. 20	25th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr)
	7:00am	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	9:00am	Gerald Stabell
	11:00am	Abel & Ernestina Rego

Financial Report

Income:

Due to the early submission of this bulletin because of the Labor Day holiday, we have no parish income to report this weekend. We will catch up next Sunday. Thank you.

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory.

Sanctuary Lamp

*During this time of our absence away from Eucharistic Adoration please pray at home for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle at the main altar still burns this week: **Julian Ferro***

CONFESSION

Monday: 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Saturday: 9:30 to 10:00am
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45pm

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

BEATING THE DEVIL AT HIS OWN GAME

St. John Chrysostom (347-407), a great bishop of the early Church, once reflected how Christ won His victory over the devil using the same things that the devil has used to cause the original sin:

A virgin, a tree and a death were the symbols of our defeat. The virgin was Eve: she had not yet known man; the tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; the death was Adam's penalty. But behold again a Virgin and a tree and a death, those symbols of defeat, become the symbols of his victory. For in place of Eve there is Mary; in place of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the tree of the Cross; in place of the death of Adam, the death of Christ.

Do you see how the devil is defeated by the very things through which he had conquered? At the foot of the tree the devil overcame Adam; on the tree Christ vanquished the devil. And that first tree sent men to Hades; this second one calls back those who had already gone down there. Again, the former tree concealed man already despoiled and stripped; the second tree shows a naked victor on high for all to see. And that earlier death condemned those who were born after it; this second death gives life again to those who were born before it. Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

All Christians should have a devotion to the Holy Cross. It is the most recognizable symbol of our faith and the means through which Christ has won salvation for us.

This Monday is the Feast of the Holy Cross. It commemorates the Dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem in 326, in particular, as the anniversary of the day after the dedication when a piece of the True Cross previously discovered on the site was brought out to be honored by the assembled crowds. Three centuries later, this relic of the cross was stolen during a Persian invasion and later returned to the Basilica in 629.

I would like to suggest **two ways to mark this Feast of the Holy Cross** on Monday, 14 September:

1) Come to Mass (9 a.m.) **or Vespers** (6:30 p.m.) on Monday to mark this feast day. If you can't make either service, there is Eucharistic Adoration all day.

2) Visit the Shrine of the Holy Cross at the back of the church. Aside from being a place to meditate on Christ's sacrifice for our salvation, it contains two stones from the places of the Passion: the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed the night before His Passion, and Golgotha, the hill on which He was crucified. The inscription above the shrine reads *In Cruce Salus*, "In the Cross is Salvation".

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:30am – 4:00pm

Please make an appointment to meet with

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-998-7445

School: 508-995-4313

School Fax: 508-995-0456

ACCESSIBILITY

- Open for Prayer Every Day
- Wheelchair Lift
- Cry-room

St. Francis Xavier Parish **125 Main Street** **Acushnet, MA 02743**

tel: (508)-995-7600 fax: (508) -995-1794

email: info@sfxparish.com

Fr. Riley J. Williams, Pastor

[rjw@sfxparish.com]

Deacon David Pepin

[dbp@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jlh@sfxparish.com]

[ministry@sfxacushnet.com]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Director of Pastoral Services

[sng@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Michelle Russo, Parish School Principal

[mrusso@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Anabela Shaughnessy, Asst. Principal

[ashaughnessy@sfxacushnet.com]

HOLY MASS

Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am & 11:00am

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

First Friday 9:00am & 6:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday 5:30-6:30pm

(9:30-10:00am Monday Holidays)

Saturday 9:30-10:00am

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

First Fridays 6:45-7:15pm

Any Time by Appointment

ADORATION

Monday 6:30am-8:30pm

Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm

Thursday 6:30am-8:30pm

Friday 6:30am-8:30pm

Saturday 6:30 am-2:45 pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Monday & Wednesday: 6:30 pm

ON THE COVER

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. (Sir 27:30 - 28:1)

Vengeance in the human heart is the angry portion of justice. Vengeance, or the infliction of punishment upon one who has done moral wrong, is not a bad thing in itself as it is certainly a part of justice. The only thing is – vengeance belongs entirely to God (**Dt 32:35**).

God gives the law to man to temper his desire for vengeance and because he wants man to exercise his power of reason in his relations. Law is always meant to be an “ordinance of reason” so that it will be “blind” to emotion and to ensure that the punishment of the guilty will be based on uprightness and not on anger, pride, envy, etc.

If vengeance belongs to God alone (in the sense that God's anger is always perfect and justifiable) then we should avoid acting like it falls to us to dispense it. We should avoid seeking *revenge*, which is the term we use for describing man's emotional pursuit of personal justice. In the act of revenge, one person (or a group of persons) takes it upon themselves, outside Church and State law, to inflict injury (physical or otherwise) on the offending (or apparently offending) party. Once the vengeful person or group has abandoned the law to act outside it, all kinds of dangerous things can be marshaled up along with injuries that perpetuate on both sides leading to individual and factional feuds. When this occurs there needs to be called into play a legitimate authority to restore the law and to remind the individuals or factions involved to respect the rule of law and its enforcement.

In today's first reading we reflect on revenge as a spiritual matter. We read that God sees wrath and anger in his children as hateful things and he wants to separate his beloved from these vices utterly. Man is also warned that when vengeance becomes an intentional activity which deliberately ignores the counsel and justice of God, it is a very grave sin that God remembers in his divine judgment.

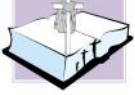
For this **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time** we place on our bulletin cover a work by **Jacques-Louise David** entitled *The Pain of Andromache* (1783 – **From Wikiart**). David was a Neoclassical artist and portraiture painter in the decades before the French Revolution after which he was given by Robespierre full control of the arts in the French Republic. As we know from reading about that radical revolution, the “Republic” specialized heinously in the art of revenge.

Our bulletin image captures the sad effect of revenge. Prince Hector lies dead on his bed after being killed in combat by Achilles, vengeful for the death of his friend Patroclus. The gods restored Hector's corpse which had been dragged over the beach of Troy by Achilles. Hector thus died not in war, but in single combat over revenge. We see Hector's wife Andromache lamenting and praying over her loss and her son Astyanax lamenting over her lamentation. This succession of suffering is indicated by the interweaving of arms which begins with Hector's lifeless right arm continuing to his wife's right arm, through her body to her son's right arm and finally through the boy's left arm to his mother's breast.

Vengeance itself results in a succession of injury and suffering. Thus the need to forgive “seventy-seven times” if one is to truly imitate God (**Mt 18:22**).

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 13, 2020

Religious Education



2020/2021 Religious Education Classes: Plans are underway for the start of the coming year. We will be returning with a *hybrid model* of remote learning and in-person classes, social distancing and wearing masks. We will be providing each child with their own lap desk and writing instruments for those registered in the Religious Education Program. There will also be some remote learning this year depending on class sizes. If you are registering your child this coming year but are still apprehensive about returning to a classroom setting please contact Mrs. Hammarquist and special arrangements will be made.

Registration forms have been sent via email for those previously registered in the program. Please return the form via mail, parish metal drop box (outside of the office) or the collection basket at Mass (write Religious Education on the outside of envelope) by September 21. If you are parishioners and you have a child that is in public school Grades 1-8 (9th Public or Catholic School) and would like him/her to attend our program for the 2020/2021 year please call the office to set up an appt. with Mrs. Hammarquist. Classes begin on Sunday September 27th. *Catholic School families will be receiving information soon for Sacramental years.*

Religious Education Registrations: Sacramental Years: If you are a parishioner here at St. Francis and your child is attending a Catholic School other than St. Francis and will be entering the 1st/2nd grade (First Communion Program) or 8th grade this school year please contact Mrs. Hammarquist at jlh@sfxparish.com.

Stay Safe, Healthy and Holy
God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

With a few partial weeks under our belts we can say without reservation, *"We are off to a safe and healthy start to the 2020- 2021 school year!"* Our students and faculty were so thrilled to be back in our school building even with the masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizing! The joy that fills the building is the driving force behind our desire to provide for our students' health and academic success. Very soon our teachers will administer the MAP Growth assessment to get a sense of any impact of our school's closure and to evaluate the success of our remote program. The data gathered will be useful and necessary for classroom planning and identifying individual student strengths and weaknesses.... especially in light of the March 13th closing and on-line learning experience. Thank you for all your prayers for the health and wellness of our school community.

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 20th - Diocesan Assessment
September 27th - Cardinal Medeiros Residence



Meeting of Jacob & Esau
Francesco Hayez (1844)

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Mt 18:21-22)

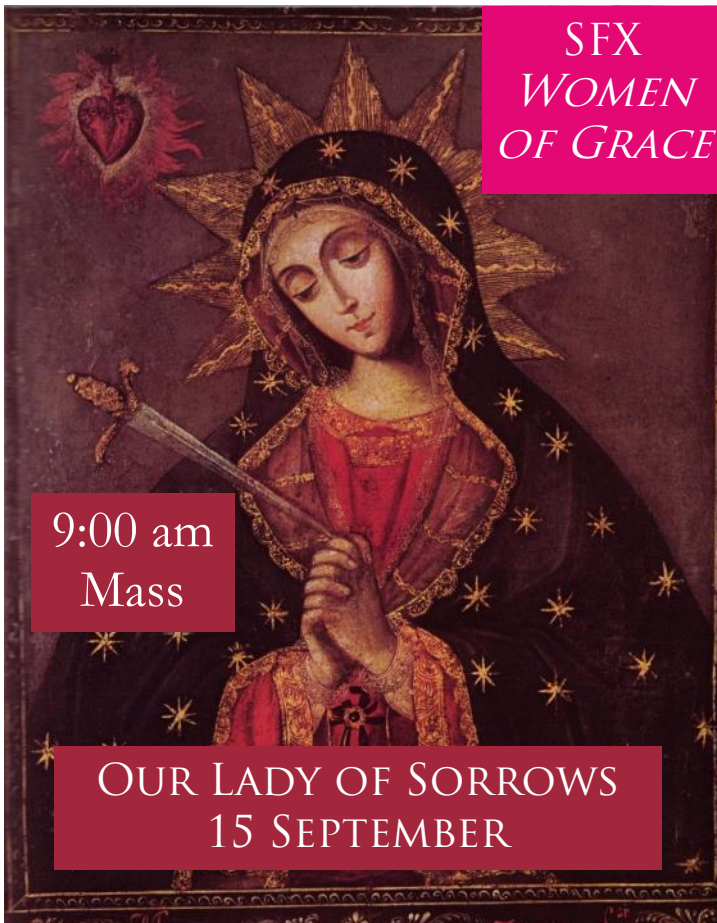


OUR SUMMER "POP-UP" FUNDRAISER: SVDP would again like to thank our beautiful parish for the continued support of our mission to support our clients, homeless and those in need.

On Saturday August 22nd at our Pop Up fundraiser we raised \$725 in gift cards and \$1,223 in cash and checks. Many people will be touched by these funds which make there day a little bit brighter.

Mike Bachstein - President

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Bishop Edgar da Cunha has passed onto his parishes a message from him and other bishops of the United States that they all desire the dioceses to assist those other dioceses in our nation who have suffered recently from natural disasters, for example in Louisiana from Hurricane Laura and in California due to the many wild fires. Because our collection schedule is already full for September, we will hold a collection for Disaster Relief on **Saturday, 10 October and Sunday, 11 October.** We thank you in advance for your generosity.



**SFX
WOMEN
OF GRACE**

**9:00 am
Mass**

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS
15 SEPTEMBER**

MONTH'S MIND MASS

We remember the following individuals
that were deceased or memorialized
in the past month at our
Sunday 11:00 am, Sept 13th Holy Mass

**Arthur Carreau
John L Avery
Robert Guenette**

PARISH ANNUAL APPEAL: If you did not receive a mailing, please let us know in the parish office. Every penny of the Annual Appeal is used to support our parish operations. Not only do the funds pay for upkeep of our facility operations, they also assist the Church and diocese in keeping up a strong Catholic presence in Acushnet. This is the most vital point of the appeal in that it provides for an outpost for Christ and for telling His message to a world which is being challenged, even compelled, to give up Christianity in favor of another way that seeks neither truth or peace. Please help us to continue to uphold and increase this community of Christ especially through a beautiful liturgy and the sacramental life for the salvation of souls.

SFX PRAYER LINE

Please call 508-850-6649 between 8am & 8pm
Or email your prayer request to:
sfxprayerline@gmail.com

READINGS FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8]/
Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
Monday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf.
7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 31:2 and 3b, 3cd-4, 5-
6, 15-16, 20 [17]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22
[12]/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 [1]/Lk
7:36-50
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15 [15b]/
Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14 [14]/
Lk 8:4-15

NEW SUNDAY MASS TIMES

**Below is the new Mass Schedule to begin this
Sunday, September 13th:**

**7:00 AM
9:00 AM
11:00 AM**

If you are a Regular Sunday Mass goer please email or call the parish office to inform us of your full name, the Mass you are now attending, and which of the three new Sunday Mass times Mass you wish to attend. Thank you.

**EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
14 SEPTEMBER**



**9:00 am
Mass**

SFX DAILY MASS WATCH

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 13, 2020

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 13 SEPTEMBER

ProceSSIONAL Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy Like the wide-ness of the sea

There's a kindness in his justice Which is more than liberty

There is plentiful redemption In the blood that has been shed

There is joy for all the members In the sorrows of the head

1st Reading: Sir 27:30 - 28:7

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion*

2nd Reading: Rom 14: 7-9

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Gospel Reading: Mt 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered,

Gospel Reading: (Continued)

"I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Offertory Hymn: Prayer of St. Francis

Communion Hymn: O, Jesus We Adore Thee

Recessional Hymn: O God Beyond All Praising

*O God beyond all praising We worship you today,
And sing the love amazing That songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder At every gift you send,
At blessings without number And mercies without end;*

*We lift our hearts before you And wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you Our great and mighty Lord.*